



**HEALTHY
FAMILIES**
Elkhart County

Healthy Families Elkhart County Annual Report 2012

History: Healthy Families has been serving families throughout Elkhart County since 1994. Our number one goal is to support families to be the best parents they can be. Our focus is guiding parents to positive, effective relationships with their children by providing education in areas such as child development, positive discipline, positive parent/child interaction and using appropriate community resources. In late 2011 and early 2012 we have added 2 new supervisors and 9 new home visitors to the staff as a result of receiving the Maternal Infant/Early Childhood Home Visitation monies from the Federal Affordable Health Care Act. This money has allowed us to serve an additional 130 families.

Target Population:

Families that are either prenatal or have just given birth, live in Elkhart County, and are identified by hospitals or other agencies as being high-risk (as defined by Healthy Families America). Families must agree to receive our services, as the program is voluntary.

Services:

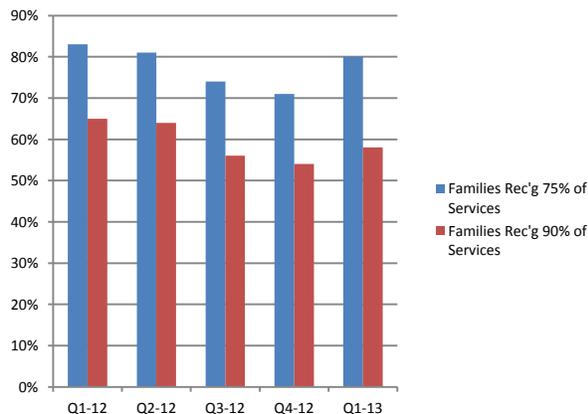
Long-term intensive home visitation which focuses on:

- Positive parent/child interaction
- Positive discipline
- Child development
- Community resources
- Family Safety/Functioning

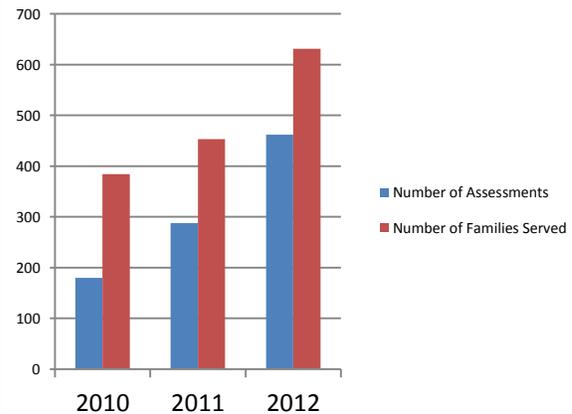
Goals/Outcomes:

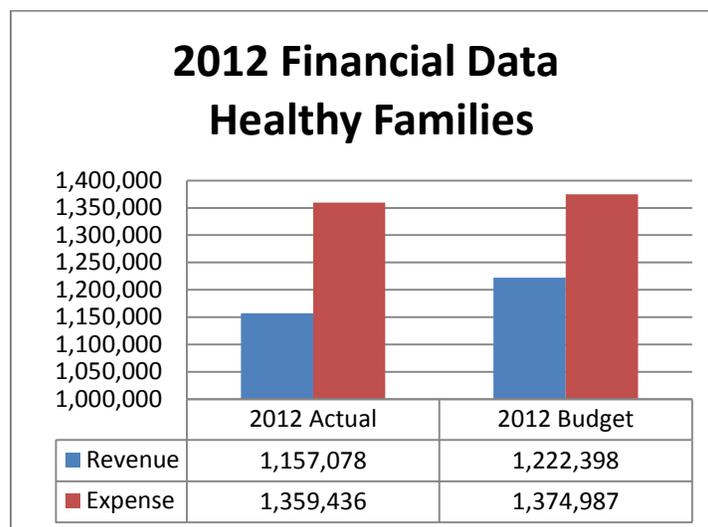
- Building trusting relationships is the first step in working with families. 75% of families that are assessed in Elkhart County accept services, compared to 56.5% statewide.
- Our overall retention rate for one year was approximately 50% (goal 50% or better)
- Increased family functioning is a new focus of the Healthy Families program. We use several tools to measure this increased functioning. Data from late 2012 shows that 67% of our families showed improvement on this tool. (goal: 90%)
- In 2012 we completed 86.38% of visits due (goal 90%)

Percentage of Families Receiving Services



Healthy Families Services to Families





Trends, Challenges, Responses:

Trends supported by research:

- Understanding the importance of fathers in children’s lives and programming to include fathers.
- Children in families that receive home visitation are more likely to be in gifted programs in school, less likely to be in special education classes, less likely to score below average on standardized tests. Research indicates that home visitation services are beneficial to the whole family.

Challenges:

- The Healthy Families Elkhart County Program is part of a wider network of Healthy Families Indiana providers. We are rated annually on 86 Healthy Families America standards and an additional 92 Healthy Families Indiana policy and contract standards.
- In 2011 and 2012 Healthy Families Elkhart County has been on corrective action for non-adherence to some of these 178 standards.
 - We have implemented numerous new processes throughout the program to ensure compliance on tracking issues such as training tracking and developmental delay tracking.
 - We have attended trainings on use of the report features in our database to improve supervisors’ ability to monitor tool usage.
- The biggest challenge we face currently is compliance with the Individual Family Service Plan process (IFSP). This process has been changed several times over the last two years.
 - We have asked for additional training from HFI on the IFSP process as well as additional training for supervisors regarding the reflective supervisory practice that the State requires us to use.
 - In the first quarter of 2013 (Jan-Mar) of those IFSP’s due the HF staff completed 87% of them on time. There were 4 late Individual Family Service Plans out of 31 due during the quarter.
- Expectations on both supervisors and home visitors have increased significantly in the last year, leaving little time for activities such as team building. This has led to burnout or near burnout with many staff.
 - Chrissy Fry, lead supervisor, is taking a more active role in providing some reflective supervision for the other supervisors
- Staff turnover has been a challenge in the last few months and will continue to be a challenge for the next 6 months. 1 staff is leaving to attend a Master’s program. One staff is moving out of the area to be near her family. Four other staff members have chosen to take new positions both inside and outside of CAPS.
 - In early 2013 we reduced the maximum caseload size of home visitors to allow for more time to focus on families and plan visits.

Strategic Plan Highlights:

- While no specific curriculum is in use at this time families are receiving information on child abuse including information on choosing appropriate care providers for their children in their absence. Our staff will be trained regarding talking with parents about how to talk to children about sexual abuse.
- Increasing referrals of prenatal mothers from sources such as WIC, The Woman's Care Center, and RETA.- Referrals from these sources have increased.